

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 05252 300932Z

11

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 L-02

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 INR-05 RSC-01 /043 W

----- 034648

R 300852Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4623

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAFE

CINCEUR

CSAF

OSAF

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 5252

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NATO, NL

SUBJ: REPLACEMENT FIGHTER: STATE SECRETARY STEMERDINK'S

COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

REF: THE HAGUE 4733

1. DCM SAW DEFENSE STATE SECRETARY STEMERDINK OCTOBER 24
TO PURSUE DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM RAISED BY STEMERDINK
IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATION OF PERSUADING CERTAIN LEFT-
WING POLITICIANS THAT THE NETHERLANDS DOES INDEED NEE
A SOPHISTICATED LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY FIGHTER TO
REPLACE ITS F-104S. STEMERDINK ACCEPTED THAT IT WOULD
BE RISKY FOR US AUTHORITIES TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE A NEW
NATO STATEMENT OR FINDING TO JUSTIFY THE SALE OF AN
AMERICAN REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT TO THE NETHERLANDS. HE
SAID A PROBLEM WAS CAUSED BY AN OSD SECRET REPORT EN-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 THE HA 05252 300932Z

TITLED "RATIONALIZATION POETNTIAL STUDY", TRANSMITTED

BY USNATO TO NATO DEPUTY SYG PANSA LAST JULY 31, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE RNLAf COULD FILL ITS NATO-ASSIGNED FUTURE ROLE WITH A/7 AIRCRAFT AND WHICH OMITTED ANY MENTION OF THE YF-16 OR THE YF-17. DCM TOLD STEMERDINK HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER PROMPTLY AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM (FULL DETAILS BY MEMCON).

2. DCM SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM A JOURNALIST THAT MOD VREDELING HAD ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND THAT THE NETHERLANDS SHOULD BUY THE MIRAGE SUPER F-1. VREDELING'S PRINCIPAL REASON WAS SAID TO BE HIS WELL-KNOWN OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING UP AN AUTONOMOUS EUROPEAN (CONVENTIONAL) DEFENSE FORCE BASED ON ACTIVE AND SIGNIFICANT FRENCH COOPERATION WITH ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS. ACCORDING TO THE JOURNALIST, VREDELING SAW THE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER SALE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FRANCE IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION.

3. STEMERDINK NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED VREDELING'S PREDILECTION FOR THE FRENCH PRODUCT BUT SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT VREDELING WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATION RE THE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER IN WHICH STEMERDINK DID NOT CONCUR. SINCE STEMERDINK WAS NOT RPT NOT IN FAVOR OF THE MIRAGE, HE COULD IN EFFECT KILL WHATEVER CHANCES THE MIRAGE HAD WITHIN THE MOD. WITH NO TRACE OF EITHER BOASTING OR FALSE MODESTY, HE SAID THAT HE WAS TOO IMPORTANT POLITICALLY TO BOTH VREDELING AND THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY FOR VREDELING TO TRY TO OVERRIDE STEMERDINK'S VIEWS ON THE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER QUESTION. STEMERDINK LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MIRAGE WAS NOT THE REAL PROBLEM FOR THOSE LIKE HIMSELF WHO FAVORED AN AMERICAN PLANE. RATHER IT WAS THOSE, AS INDICATED IN PARA 1, WHO WERE TRYING TO BLOCK THE PURCHASE OF A SOPHISTICATED LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY REPLACEMENT FIGHTER ON THE GROUND THAT SUCH AN AIRCRAFT EXCEEDED THE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF THE RNLAf. GOULD

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, F-104
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA05252
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740309-0729
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974105/aaaaadup.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: THE HAGUE 4733
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLACEMENT FIGHTER: STATE SECRETARY STEMERDINK'S COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY
TAGS: MASS, NL, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005